

Compatibility Determinations - Tijuana Slough NWR

The National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) System is a primary-use federal land system. No secondary uses of a Refuge may be allowed unless they are determined to be compatible with the primary wildlife conservation purpose for which the refuge was established. Secondary uses may include recreation, commercial activities, rights-of-way, and research. These types of uses are all discretionary. Before they are authorized, they must be found compatible. For recreational uses, the Refuge Manager must also determine that sufficient funds and staff resources are available to implement programs. Public safety and interference with other authorized uses are reasons that some uses compatible with refuge purposes may not be authorized on an NWR.

Compatible secondary uses of refuge are uses that either promote and enhance, or at least do not materially interfere with the purpose(s) for which the refuge was established. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) must also have sufficient jurisdiction over NWR lands to exercise the compatibility rule.

Tijuana Slough NWR was established in 1980 under authority of the Endangered Species Act of 1973. The refuge was established specifically to protect habitat for and enhance recovery of the endangered light-footed clapper rail. The official purpose of the refuge is "... to conserve (A) fish or wildlife which are listed as endangered species or threatened species... or (B) plants..." That is the purpose against which proposed secondary uses are tested during a compatibility determination.

On FWS fee-title land of Tijuana Slough NWR, FWS has full jurisdiction. On NWR lands operated under the 1984 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the U.S. Navy and on state tidelands operated as part of the NWR under the 1980 Lease No. PRC 5938.9 of the California State Lands Commission, FWS exercises jurisdiction only as specified in the MOU and Lease, and does not have complete jurisdiction over all secondary uses.

The following secondary uses of Tijuana Slough NWR have been determined to be compatible with the purpose(s) of the refuge, as qualified in the individual compatibility determinations.

- Environmental Education: found compatible in Compatibility Determination and Environmental Action Memorandum of September 1, 1994.
- Pest Management (including removal of exotic vegetation and mosquito control): found compatible in Compatibility Determination and

Environmental Action Memorandum of September 21, 1994.

- **Research (including population monitoring and surveys): found compatible in Compatibility Determination and Environmental Action Memorandum of September 1, 1994. (Note: Individual research proposals may be subject to additional compatibility determination.)**
- **Boating (non-motorized): found compatible in Compatibility Determination and Environmental Action Memorandum of September 1, 1994.**
- **Wildlife Observation and Photography: Compatibility Determination in preparation.**
- **Wildlife Interpretation: Compatibility Determination in preparation.**
- **Foot, bicycle and equestrian trails: Compatibility Determination in preparation.**